

# EUROPEAN LABOR MIGRANTS IN THE HAGUE

## A STUDY INTO WORK, LIVING AND LANGUAGE

This infographic is about the research conducted in 2024 on European labour migrants in The Hague. Through a survey and group interviews, we gained an understanding of how labour migrants in The Hague live, work, and how learning the language is going. We present the key results in this infographic. The research was conducted by The Hague University of Applied Sciences by researchers Stefanie Schuddebeurs, Anita Ham and Katja Rusinovic, assisted by many student researchers.

DE HAAGSE  
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### STAY IN TOUCH

From February 2025, we will continue with a follow-up research! Would you like to participate? Then send an email to [lectoraatgso@hhs.nl](mailto:lectoraatgso@hhs.nl)

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### WORKING CONDITIONS

- The work of labor migrants often does not match their previous work experience or education. Those who have been in the Netherlands for less than three years often have a temporary contract. Those who have been in the Netherlands for more than five years often have a permanent contract or work as self-employed (zzp'er).
- A significant portion of labor migrants are self-employed. However, informal interviews also point to pseudo-independence.
- Complaints about work mainly concern discrimination and exploitation, particularly in low-paid sectors.



### LIVING IN THE HAGUE

- Those who have been in the Netherlands for less than three years often live in a (shared) room. Those who have been in the Netherlands for more than five years have their own housing.
- At the same time, a relatively large number of respondents still live in a (shared) room even after five years and continue to experience unstable working conditions.
- Difficulties include unexpected rent increases, mold in homes, noisy surroundings and small living spaces.

### DUTCH AS AN OBSTACLE TO WORK

- The inability to speak Dutch is described as a major barrier to obtain better-paid work.
- Challenges to learn Dutch include uncertainty about whether one wants to stay in the Netherlands, a lack of time and energy alongside work, and a mismatch with the availability of language courses. This pertains mainly to long waiting lists and a mismatch with the level of language courses needed.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Offer more Dutch language courses and provide a clear overview of where they can be taken.
- Take both temporary and long-term residence options into account when making policy.
- Continue information points about housing, work, and social services for EU migrants.